26. (New) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said molecule comprises at least a Leu residue substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22.

27. (New) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said molecule comprises at least an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Gly and Ala substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22.

28. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein a Leu residue is substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22 and wherein a His residue is substituted for the Tyr residue at position 66 of SEQ ID N0:22.

29. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein a Ile residue is substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22 and wherein a His residue is substituted for the Tyr residue at position 66 of SEQ ID N0:22.

30. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein an Ala residue is substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22 and wherein a His residue is substituted for the Tyr residue at position 66 of SEQ ID N0:22.

31. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein a Val residue is substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22 and wherein a His residue is substituted for the Tyr residue at position 66 of SEQ ID N0:22.

32. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27, wherein a Gly residue is substituted for the Phe residue at position 64 of SEQ ID N0:22 and wherein a His residue is substituted for the Tyr residue at position 66 of SEQ ID N0:22.

33. (New) An expression vector comprising suitable expression control sequences operatively linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18.

34. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising an expression vector that comprises suitable expression control sequence operatively linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the present application. The non-elected claims of Groups II and III, namely claims 13, 15-17, 22, 24 and 25, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a divisional application. New claims 26-34 have been added. Support for new claim 26 may be found in original claim 1. Support for new claim 27 may be found in original claim 2. Support for new claim 28 may be found in original claim 3. Support for new claim 29 may be found in original claim 4. Support for new claim 30 may be found in original claim 5. Support for new claim 31 may be found in original claim 6. Support for new claim 32 may be found in original claim 7. Support for new claim 33 may be found in original claim 11. Support for new claim 34 may be found in original claim 12. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I: Claims 1-12, 14, 18-21 and 23 drawn to nucleic acids encoding GFP or GFP fusion proteins, expression vectors and host cells thereof, classified in class 536, subclasses 23.4, 23.5 and class 435, subclasses 320.1 and 325;

Group II: Claims 13, 15-17 and 22, drawn to GFP, functional analogs and fusion proteins thereof, classified in class 530, subclass 350; and

Group III: Claims 24 and 25 drawn to a method of detecting a protein *in vivo* comprising the measurement of cellular fluorescence, classified in class 424, subclass 9.6.